

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06453 120840Z

15
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 111530Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3033
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AUSMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, GE, CH, US
SUBJ: CALL ON CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR

1. ON AUGUST 5, I CALLED ON THE PRC AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR, PENG GUANG-WEI, AT HIS EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN. PENG AND I HAVE MET AT REGULAR INTERVALS DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND HE HAS FREQUENTLY TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP OUR DISCUSSIONS. OUR CONVERSATION ON THIS OCCASION CENTERED ON THE RECENT CHINESE EARTHQUAKE, CHINESE REACTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE IN EAST BERLIN, AND RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS AROUND EAST AND WEST GERMANY.

2. PENG WAS FRANK IN SAYING THAT THE EARTHQUAKE AROUND TANGSHAN HAD BEEN STRONGER THAN ANY IN THE RECENT PAST, BUT THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAD REACTED IN A CALM AND DISCIPLINED FASHION. NO MORE SEVERE
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 06453 120840Z

QUAKES WERE EXPECTED IN THE PEKING AREA, AND THE POPULATION WOULD

SOON BE RETURNING TO ITS HOMES. QUOTING MAO TSE-TUNG'S POEMS HE SAID THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAD SURVIVED EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS AND WARS AND WOULD OVERCOME QUICKLY THE EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY ABOUT HIS REACTION TO ECPC, PENG SAID THAT MOSCOW HAD ACHIEVED ITS BASIC OBJECTIVES AFTER 14 MONTHS - THAT A CONFERENCE WAS ACTUALLY HELD - AND ALSO APPROVAL BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE FALSE DOCTRINE OF DETENTE. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR AS SPANISH CP DELEGATE CARILLO HAD STATED, THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD NO LONGER DANCE TO THE TUNE OF THE GREAT POWERS. PENG SAW THE CONFERENCE AS PART OF MOSCOW'S LONG-RANGE GOAL OF SOWING DIVISION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN CPS. SOVIET AMBITIONS ARE DIRECTED TO WESTERN EUROPE - MORE SO THAN TO THE EAST.

4. ON RECENT GDR/FRG BORDER INCIDENTS, PENG SAID HE SAW NO BENEFIT TO EITHER THE FRG OR GDR IN INCREASED TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANIES. THE ONE COUNTRY THAT WAS INTERESTED IN THESE TENSIONS, WAS THE SOVIET UNION, AND ITS HAND WAS TO BE SEEN IN THE RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS. KEEPING THE TWO GERMANIES DIVIDED WAS PART OF ITS STRATEGY OF KEEPING WESTERN EUROPE DIVIDED AND OFF BALANCE.

5. OTHER POINTS PENG SAID THAT THE PRC DID NOT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FALL 1976 LEIPZIG FAIR FOR FINANCIAL REASONS. THE LARGE PRC EXHIBIT AT THE SPRING 1976 FAIR HAD COST TOO MUCH MONEY AND ENERGY.

6. FINALLY, IN BRIEFLY ANSWERING MY QUESTION REGARDING REPORTS OF CURRENT DIVISIONS IN THE PRC GOVERNMENT, PENS SAID THERE WAS A CONTINUING STRUGGLE, THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND WOULD CONTINUE IN ALL AREAS OF PRC POLICY, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC. UNLIKE THE SOVIET UNION, PRC POLICIES WERE DEVELOPED BY THE PEOPLE IN THIS STRUGGLE LED BY THE TEACHINGS OF MAO.

7. LEAVING, I STATED THAT I HOPED THE RELATIONS OF THE U.S. AND THE PRC WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. HE RESPONDED SIMPLY BY SAYING THAT THE PRC POLICIES ARE WELL KNOWN. WE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FOR U.S.COOPER

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